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(54) Title of the Invention: Oral Cavity Cleansing Agent

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## SPECIFICATION

1. Title of the Invention

Oral Cavity Cleansing Agent

2. Claim

(1) An oral cavity cleansing agent characterized in that it contains sodium hydrogencarbonate, tartaric acid and/or citric acid.

3. Detailed Description of the Invention

[Field of Industrial Use]

This invention relates to an oral cavity cleansing agent that is used in mouth washing. In greater detail, it relates to an oral cavity cleansing agent which is a powder, which is of superior portability and which has a cleansing effect.

[Prior Art]

Mouth washing after meals is performed for the purpose of removal of food remains, decreasing of bacteria in the oral cavity and prevention of the lowering of pH of tartar. It is characterized in that it

does not require a great amount of time and that it can be performed almost anywhere,

[Problems the Invention is Intended to Solve]

Conventional oral cavity cleansing agents are liquids that are either used in unaltered form or are used diluted with water and are unsuitable for carrying because of their weight.

The inventors conducted intensive research in the light of the above-described circumstances. As the result, this invention was perfected by discovering that an oral cleansing agent that is convenient to carry and of a superior cleansing effect can be obtained by using sodium hydrogencarbonate together with tartaric acid and/or citric acid.

There are known technologies for powdered juice containing sodium hydrogencarbonate and organic acids such as citric acid as indicated in Japanese Patent Application Early Disclosure No. Sho 55-74778 [1980] but nothing has been reported about oral cavity cleansing agents.

[Means for Solving the Problems]

Specifically, this invention relates to an oral cavity cleansing agent characterized in that it contains sodium hydrogencarbonate together with tartaric acid and/or citric acid.

We shall now describe the structure of this invention.

The sodium hydrogencarbonate that is used in this invention is obtained as an intermediate during the manufacture of sodium carbonate by the ammonia soda process and is added to food products as a foaming agent.

Tartaric acid and citric acid are added to food products as sour flavoring agents.

The compounding ratio of sodium hydrogencarbonate and tartaric acid and/or citric acid in the oral cavity cleansing agent of this invention is a weight ratio of 1 : 0.1 ~ 1 : 10, and, preferably, 1 : 0.6 ~ 1 : 2. The total compounding quantity of sodium hydrogencarbonate and tartaric acid and/or citric acid is 65 weight % to 98 weight %, and, preferably, 90 weight % to 94 weight %, of the total quantity of the oral cavity cleansing gent of this invention. When it is less than 65 weight %, it is not possible for the cleansing effect to be manifested.

The oral cavity cleansing agent of this invention is obtained by mixing and stirring the above-described essential constituents in the powdered state. However, when sodium hydrogencarbonate and tartaric acid and/or citric acid are left for a long period in a state in which they are in contact, chemical reactions are brought about and carbon dioxide is produced, for which reason it is ordinarily desirable for them to be kept in a state in which they are not in direct contact.

Procedures for this include, for example, coating one or both with another substance by an ordinary method, or, as indicated in the above-described Japanese Patent Application Early Disclosure No. Sho 55-74778 [1980], a method in which they are separately packaged in two chambers. These powders are dissolved in water and used for mouth washing. The amount to be dissolved is selected appropriately. However, the quantity that is ordinarily used is approximately 10 g of powder dissolved in about 1 cup of water (approximately 200 cc). There is the effect that food remnants in the oral cavity are removed by the foam that is generated.

In addition to the above-described essential constituents, as required, drugs such as cetylpyridium and hinokitiol, powdered alcohol, L-menthol and powdered fragrances can be compounded with the oral cavity cleansing agent of this invention.

[Working Examples]

We shall now describe this invention in further detail by presenting working examples. This invention is not limited by them.

Working Example 1

| | |
|---|---|
| Sodium hydrogencarbonate | 7 g |
| Tartaric acid coated with carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) | 7 g |
| Hinokitiol | 0.003 g |
| Cetylpyridium chloride | 0.003 g |
| L-Menthol | 0.3 g |
| Powdered fragrance | 0.5 g |

Working Example 2

| | |
|---|---|
| Sodium hydrogen carbonate | 7.7 g |
| Tartaric acid coated with CMC | 1.2 g |
| Lactose | 4 g |
| L-Menthol | 0.2 g |
| Powdered fragrance | 0.3 g |

Working Example 3

| | |
|---|---|
| Sodium hydrogen carbonate | 0.8 g |
| Tartaric acid coated with CMC | 6 g |
| Hinokitiol | 0.0015 g |
| L-Menthol | 0.2 g |
| Powdered fragrance | 0.2 g |

Working Example 4

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (A) | Sodium hydrogencarbonate | 6 g |
| | L-Menthol | 0.3 g |
| | Powdered fragrance | 0.4 g |
| (B) | Tartaric acid | 5.5 g |
| | Citric acid | 0.56 g |
| | Powdered alcohol | 0.2 g |

Constituents (A) and constituents B were prepared and a partition was installed in the center of a bag, the constituents (A) and the constituents (B) were housed in the respective chambers of an aluminum foil container in which two chambers were formed, with a powdered oral cavity cleansing agent being obtained.

The various constituents in the above-described working examples were mixed and stirred and oral cavity cleansing agents in the powdered state were obtained.

These substances were of excellent portability. When 10 g of powder was dissolved in 200 cc of water for mouth washing, a suitable degree of foaming occurred, there was a refreshing feeling and a cleansing effect was found.

[Effect of the Invention]

Because it is a powder, the oral cavity cleansing agent of this invention has the advantages that it is suited to carrying, and, when needed, can be used dissolved in water. In addition, due to the foam that is generated when it is dissolved in water, there are such cleansing effects as removing food remnants in the oral cavity and there is an excellent refreshing feeling.

Applicant: Shiseido Company, Ltd.

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